

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

UNCLAS STATE 155394

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
JULY 17 DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS.

QUOTE: AND TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN
CYPRUS, AS OF THIS MORNING, OUR TIME, THE FIGHTING
APPEARS TO HAVE STOPPED IN CYPRUS AND THE CURFEW HAS BEEN
LIFTED FROM THE PERIOD 6:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.
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WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY FURTHER INJURIES TO
AMERICANS, OTHER THAN THE TWO THAT I MENTIONED YESTERDAY.
NO REPORS OF ANY DAMAGE TO AMERICAN PROPERTY. THERE ARE
NO PLANS FOR EVACUATING ANY AMERICANS FROM CYPRUS. AND

THE UNITED STATES IS MAINTAINING CONTINUING DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH ALL INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN CAPITALS AND AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE HOPE OF PREVENTING FURTHER DESTABILIZATION OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION.

IN CYPRUS THE POLITICAL SITUATION REMAINS BASICALLY THE SAME, IN OUR VIEW, AS I DESCRIBED TO YOU YESTERDAY; I.E., IT IS UNCLEAR STILL, AND THEREFORE IN OUR VIEW THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION DOES NOT ARISE NOW. AND THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE OBJECTIVE FOR ALL

INTERESTED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE SUPPORT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS AND ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Q: PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IS REPORTEDLY COMING TO NEW YORK TO THE UN. IS THERE ANY PLAN TO INVITE HIM TO WASHINGTON?

A: I'VE SEEN THE REPORTS THAT HE MAY BE COMING TO THE UN. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED INFORMATION THAT THESE REPORTS ARE TRUE. I KNOW OF NO PLAN TO INVITE MAKARIOS TO WASHINGTON.

Q: FROM THE UN, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE REPORTED IN BASIC DISAGREEMENT IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT THE UNITED STATES POSITION IS?

A: ON OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY OF THE, SHALL WE SAY, DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS THAT WE'RE MAKING NOW AND PUT THEM ON THE PUBLIC RECORD. I JUST WOULD AT THIS STAGE LIKE TO JUST LEAVE IT THAT WAY. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.

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Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION REGARDING A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON CYPRUS?

A: ALL I CAN DO ON THAT IS REFER YOU TO WHAT AMBASSADOR SCALI SAID YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WHERE HE FELT THAT WE NEEDED MORE FACTS ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS. THAT WAS THE POSITION THAT HE TOOK IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THAT.

Q: THERE WOULD SEEM ON THE SURFACE TO BE A CERTAIN DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT DESTABILIZATION ON THE ONE HAND AND A CESSATION OF FIGHTING AND THE LIFTING OF THE CURFEW, AS ESTABLISHED BY OUR EMBASSY, ON THE OTHER. THIS LEADS ONE TO THE QUESTION, IF WE HAVE ESTABLISHED TO OUR SATISFACTION THAT THE FIGHTING HAS

STOPPED AND THE CURFEW HAS BEEN LIFTED, WHAT CONSTITUTES FURTHER DESTABILIZATION OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION? AND SECOND, IS IT NOT TRUE THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS ARE STILL ON THE BASIS OF RELATIONS WITH THE MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT?

A: ON YOUR FIRST QUESTION, WHAT I SAID WAS THAT THE FIGHTING APPEARS TO HAVE STOPPED. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS

LESS FIGHTING THERE NOW THAN THERE WAS YESTERDAY. THE SITUATION COULD BECOME TENSE. THERE IS THE QUESTION, AS YOU HAVE ALL READ, OF POSSIBLE OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. I WENT ON RECORD YESTERDAY AS SAYING THAT WE WOULD BE VERY MUCH AGAINST ANY OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. IT'S A HIGHLY COMPLICATED SITUATION, AND WE ARE CONSULTING WITH ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES VERY ACTIVELY HERE. BUT THE SITUATION COULD DESTABILIZE NOT JUST BECAUSE OF, SAY, INTERNAL CONDITIONS, BUT OTHER SITUATIONS MIGHT ARISE WHICH WE CERTAINLY HOPE WILL NOT. ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION OF MAKARIOS, I GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID EARLIER: THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS VERY UNCLEAR AND THEREFORE WE JUST ARE GOING TO REST FOR THE MOMENT ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION.

Q: HAVE YOU RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION?

A: YOU MEAN FROM THE REGIME IN NICOSIA? NO,
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WE HAVE NOT.

Q: BUT I MEAN AT WHAT STAGE -- I MEAN YOU SAY YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND WHO YOU WILL RECOGNIZE. AFTER ALL, YOU MUST BE MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A GOVERNMENT.

A: YOU WEREN'T HERE AT THE BRIEFING YESTERDAY, AND I MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION IS THE CONTROL OF A REGIME OVER THE TERRITORY CONCERNED, AND WE ARE STILL TRYING TO MAKE THAT DETERMINATION NOW. WE HAVE NOT DECIDED.

Q: PRECISELY TO THAT POINT, THE FACT THAT THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED ---

A: APPEARS TO HAVE STOPPED.

Q: WELL, APPEARS TO HAVE STOPPED. DOESN'T THAT IMPLY THAT THE COUP LEADERS HAVE THE TERRITORIAL CONTROL THAT'S ONE OF THE MAJOR CRITERIA?

A: IT'S ONE OF THE MAJOR CRITERIA.

Q: IT'S ONE OF THE TWO CRITERIA, IN FACT, THAT I'VE HEARD ENUNCIATED. WELL, IF THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED, DOESN'T IT TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT WHO'S CONTROLLING CYPRUS TODAY.

A: YES, TO A LIMITED EXTEND, BUT WE ARE STILL STUDYING THE SITUATION AND WE WILL MAKE OUR DECISION IN DUE COURSE. I'M GOING TO LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q: THE OTHER CRITERION IS THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IF THERE IS ONE, SHOULD RECOGNIZE ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. DO YOU HAVE A WORD FROM THE SAMPSON REGIME GOVERNMENT THAT THEY DO IT?

A: THAT IS ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT CRITERION. NO, WE DO NOT. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY HAVE MADE.
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Q: A LITTLE WHILE AGO YOU SAID THAT WE WOULD REST ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION, AS OF THIS TIME, TO EITHER --

A: THAT'S RIGHT.

Q: --WHICH WOULD IMPLY THAT AT SOME STAGE, SINCE MONDAY MORNING, WE ERASED OUR RECOGNITION OF THE MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT -- OR HELD IT IN ABEYANCE, OR SET IT IN ABEYANCE.

A: WE ARE JUST OBSERVING AND TRYING TO EVALUATE THE POLITICAL SITUATION AS IT EVOLVES. AND IN THAT POLITICAL SITUATION YOU HAVE THE QUESTION OF MAKARIOS, AND YOU HAVE THE QUESTION OF THE PRESENT REGIME THAT IS THERE. AND WE ARE GOING TO JUST EVALUATE THAT IN DUE COURSE AND THEN WE WILL MAKE A DECISION.

Q: BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT A SITUATION OF ABEYANCE IN OUR RELATIONS HAS DEVELOPED?

A: YOU CAN PUT IT THAT WAY; YES.

Q: COULD I JUST ASK YOU SOMETHING IN PRACTICAL TERMS? THE NEW AUTHORITIES HAVE RECALLED MR. ROSSIDES. NOW, IS MR. SCALI DEALING WITH ROSSIDES AT THE UNITED NATIONS AS THE AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS OR NOT?

A: I DO NOT KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE LATEST SITUATION IS UP THERE.

Q: HAS AMBASSADOR DAVIES SEEN ANY OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT; AND, IF SO, WHO ARE THESE OFFICIALS THAT HE HAS MET WITH?

A: WELL, HE HAS SEEN THE NEWLY NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE REGIME THERE. IT WAS NOT AT HIS INITIATIVE. THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED TO COME AND SEE HIM AT HIS HOUSE -- AT AMBASSADOR DAVIES' HOUSE -- AND THEY HAD A CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT. BUT WE HAVE TAKEN NO INITIATIVE TO CONTACT ANY MEMBERS OF THE REGIME IN NICOSIA.
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Q: YOU WERE ASKED, WHETHER YOU HAD ANY ASSURANCE IN THE SECOND CRITERIA AS TO WHETHER THE NICOSIA REGIME IS THE ONE IN CONTROL AT THE MOMENT -- WHETHER IT HAD GIVEN ANY ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD HONOR THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

A: YES.

Q: YOU SAID -- YOUR ANSWER WAS -- THAT "I AM UNAWARE OF ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY NICOSIA ON THIS."

A: YES.

Q: HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY PRIVATE ASSURANCES EITHER?

A: I AM ALSO UNAWARE OF THAT. AS I RECALL, THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT WAS NOT DISCUSSED BETWEEN DAVIES AND THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER.

I MAY BE WRONG ON THE QUESTION OF A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. I MAY JUST NOT HAVE SEEN IT.

Q: IF IT'S DETERMINED THAT MAKARIOS NO LONGER HAS EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND THAT HIS REGIME IS OUT, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE ANY NEW GOVERNMENT? WILL THERE BE A FORMAL STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION?

A: I DO NOT THINK IT NECESSARILY HAS TO MEAN THAT. I GO BACK TO MY OWN EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA; IN THAT SITUATION, THERE WAS NO FORMAL STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT TOOK OVER.

Q: IS IT ACTIVE DEALING OR DOING BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT THAT CONSTITUTES RECOGNITION?

A: NO; IT DOES NOT.

Q: HOW DO WE KNOW WHOMEVER YOU'VE DECIDED?

A: IT'S A QUESTION OF WHEN YOU TAKE AN INITIATIVE TOWARDS
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THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IF YOU RESPOND TO SUMMONSES BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND YOU GO, THAT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ACT OF OVERT -- OR FORMAL RECOGNITION; LET ME PUT IT THAT WAY.

Q: WHEN WILL WE KNOW? I MEAN, HOW ARE WE GOING TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN NICOSIA?

A: I'LL LET YOU KNOW RIGHT FROM HERE, OR YOU WILL KNOW IN SOME OTHER WAY -- ONCE WE HAVE EVALUATED THE POLITICAL SITUATION. AS I SAID EARLIER, WE WILL LET YOU KNOW.

Q: DID AMBASSADOR DAVIES IN HIS CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT STRESS TO THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER THE AMERICAN DESIRE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IF IT TAKES HOLD, ADHERE TO THE AGREEMENT SEPARATING CYPRUS FROM -- MAINTAINING THE INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS.

A: ON THIS CONVERSATION THAT TOOK PLACE, AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S INITIATIVE, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO WHAT THEY DISCUSSED HERE.

Q: IF OUR RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS ARE IN FACT IN ABEYANCE, AND YOU'VE HAD THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVE THE NEW CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER, COULD WE IMAGINE THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE SUCH THAT IF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS WERE TO ASK TO SEE AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL -- SAY, IN LONDON, OR IN NEW YORK LATER -- THAT HE WOULD EQUALLY BE RECEIVED?

A: I WOULD ASSUME SO, YES.

Q: YOU'VE SAID YOU WOULD BE VERY MUCH AGAINST OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. IN THE VIEW OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, HAS THERE BEEN OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN THE SITUATION?

A: NO. IN OUR VIEW, THERE HAS NOT BEEN OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

Q: HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE DANGERS OF INTERVENTION AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS POINT?

A: LET ME JUST LEAVE IT THAT WE ARE WORKING - AS I SAID EARLIER - WITH ALL THE INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS HERE TO TRY AND URGE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT, AND WE ARE CONTINUING THAT EFFORT. AND I JUST WANT TO LEAVE IT THERE RIGHT NOW.

Q: ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER TO
COME HERE AFTER HIS VISIT WITH MR.WILSON?

A: I'M UNAWARE OF ANY.

Q: IT SOUNDED LIKE FROM YOUR COMMENTS THAT THERE WAS A
SOMEWHAT MORE IMMINENT DANGER OF SOME KIND OF OUTSIDE
INTERFERNCETODAY THAN THERE WAS YESTERDAY. IS THAT
ACCURATE, OR --

A: NO, NO. MAYBE IT WAS THE INFLECTION OF MY VOICE OR
SOMETHING.

Q: IF I CAN GO BACK TO CYPRUS, DO ANY OF THE AMERICAN
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS HAVE TO DO WITH RESTORING MAKARIOS

TO HIS JOB?

A: I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON ANY OF OUR DPLOMATIC
EFFORTS THAT WE'RE UNDERTAKING AT ALL HERE. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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